

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DOHA 01241 261308Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 DODE-00 H-01 ACDA-12 MCE-00
AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
/077 W

-----012711 270421Z /20

R 261121Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3073
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T DOHA 1241

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, BA, SA
SUBJ: QATAR INQUIRY RE SALE OF SELF PROPELLED 155 MILLIMETER
HOWITZERS

REF: (A) STATE 243471, (B) TEHRAN 8960, (C) ABU DHABI 2849,
(D) DOHA 1178, (E) MANAMA 2229

1. DURING AN OCTOBER 25 CALL AT HIS REQUEST ON SHEIKH
ABDALLAH BIN KHALIFA AL-THANI, THE THIRD SON OF AMIR
KHALIFA, I WAS ASKED IF THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE
WILLING TO SELL QATAR 155 MILLIMETER SELF PROPELLED
HOWITZERS. WHEN I INQUIRED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF
HOWITZERS HE HAD IN MIND, ABDALLAH, A SANDHURST ALUMNUS
WHO IS APPARENTLY BEING GROOMED TO TAKE OVER COMMAND
OF THE 4000 MAN QATARI ARMY FROM CROWN PRINCE HAMAD,
REPLIED THAT WHILE THE NUMBER WAS SMALL HE
PREFERRED NOT TO BE SPECIFIC AT THIS TIME. WHAT WAS
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WANTED WAS A DECISION IN PRINCIPLE BY THE UNITED
STATES TO SELL QATAR SOME 155 MM SELF PROPELLED
HOWITZERS.

2. I TOLD SHEIKH ABDALLAH I WOULD REFER THE QUESTION
TO WASHINGTON AND GIVE HIM A REPLY IN DUE TIME.
I EXPLAINED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS PROCEEDING

VERY CAUTIOUSLY ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS IN SELLING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE LOWER GULF STATES. OUR BASIC AIM WAS TO AVOID INTRODUCING EQUIPMENT THAT MIGHT HAVE A DESTABILIZING OR UNSETTLING EFFECT ON THE AREA. I COULD NOT BE SURE WHAT THE USG WOULD DECIDE BUT ABDALLAH SHOULD KNOW THAT THE DECISION COULD BE NEGATIVE.

3. COMMENT. EMBASSY'S FILES HAD NOT CONTAINED A COPY OF THE PAPER SETTING OUT USG ARMS POLICY IN THE LOWER GULF STATES BECAUSE THERE WAS NO OFFICE IN DOHA WHEN THE POLICY WAS DECIDED ON IN 1972. BUT AMBASSADOR DICKMAN IN ABU DHABI HAS KINDLY PROVIDED US WITH A COPY. AFTER PERUSING THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY, I SEE NOTHING IN IT TO PREVENT OUR SELLING A FEW HOWITZERS TO THE QATARIS, ASSUMING THE NUMBER THEY MIGHT EVENTUALLY ASK TO BUY IS SMALL. WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT TO RELATE THE 155S TO AN INTERNAL SECURITY REQUIREMENT, OR TO MAINTAIN THAT THE WEAPON IS ENTIRELY LACKING IN SOPHISTICATION, THE PRESENCE OF A SMALL NUMBER OF THEM IS UNLIKELY TO CREATE MUCH APPREHENSION IN THE MINDS OF NEIGHBORS. TN THE OTHER HAND, HOWITZERS WOULD CONSTITUTE A FINE PRESTIGE ITEM, LOOK IMPRESSIVE IN PARADES AND REMIND THE QATARI GOVERNMENT AND POPULACE OF FRIENDLY U.S.

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INTENTIONS.

4. REQUEST FOR ACTION: AN EARLY INSTRUCTION FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO INFORM THE QATARI ARMY THAT WE ARE WILLING IN PRINCIPLE TO SELL A REASONABLE NUMBER OF THE SPECIFIED HOWITZERS.

KILLGORE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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